Rice Export from India

923. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the war-fears in the months of May-June, 2002 India's rice exporters had suffered a great deal;

(b) if so, what were the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any efforts were made to improve the position; and

(d) if so, what is the latest position regarding exports of goods especially rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Printing of Maximum Retail Price

924. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the stockists and retail sellers are swindling consumers by printing maximum retail price on the product packets as reported in India Today dated the 24th June, 2002; wherein one shopkeeper sold the same item for Rs. 2,200 and another for Rs. 500;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to fix the price of the products with cost basis; and

(c) what are the steps Government propose to safe guard the interest of consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) the Standards of Weights & Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules 1977 require the declaration of the retail sale price

on packages intended for retail sale in the form "Maximum Retail Price...Inclusive of all taxes" by manufactures/packers. Government does not have information on the cost of production of commodities contained in such packages.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal under consideration to fix the price of the products with cost basis under the provisions of the Packaged Commodities Rules, Selling prices of various products, other than those covered by administered prices, are governed by market forces.

Sale of foodgrains to exporters

†925. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had started a scheme of selling wheat and rice to exporters at market rates and subsequently refund them the difference between export price and market price;

(b) if so, whether Government have withdrawn the said scheme now;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government propose to restart the said scheme as this decision would adversely effect export of foodgrains; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU):(a) to (e) The instruction regarding reimbursement of post-deliver expenses and other related expenses for export of foodgrains issued to FCI some time back have been kept kin abeyance for the time being in view of some problems pointed out by the exporters.

Removal of Cement from purview of Essential Commodities Act

926. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to remove cement from the purview of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.